

Chapter 6 – Implementation Milestones

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CHAPTER 6: TABLE OF CONTENTS

6	Implementation Milestones	6-1
6.1	<i>Local Working Group process related milestones</i>	<i>6-2</i>
6.2	<i>Conservation measure related milestones</i>	<i>6-2</i>
6.2.1	Wildfire	6-3
6.2.2	Annual grasslands.....	6-4
6.2.3	Sport hunting	6-4
6.3	<i>Monitoring related milestones</i>	<i>6-4</i>
6.3.1	Population Monitoring	6-4
6.3.2	Habitat Monitoring	6-5

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6 Implementation Milestones

The successful implementation of this Plan necessitates that certain important tasks and processes occur in a timely manner. Many sound, proactive activities, such as sage-grouse habitat restoration, wildfire suppression and rehabilitation, restrictive sage-grouse harvests, and control of invasive plant species are already in progress or will be planned on a site-specific basis. Many other important tasks are pending. The purpose of this Chapter is to concisely summarize the latter, and identify responsible parties and target deadlines.

Specific project proposals as developed locally, public education efforts, habitat/population assessment and monitoring efforts, research, and staff participation in Local Working Groups (LWG) will be routinely incorporated into agency annual budgets and work plans, as appropriate, and contingent on funding. Agencies, LWGs and other cooperators are also expected to pursue partnership opportunities, to leverage available funding to the greatest extent possible.

Certain elements of this Plan, including fine-, mid- and broad-scale habitat goals and objectives, habitat and population management conservation measures, LWG processes, and habitat and population monitoring techniques will be implemented immediately, where possible. However, implementation of some measures will occur as they are evaluated and incorporated into other plans or processes. For example, mid-scale habitat objectives described in this Plan may not be consistent with agency Land-Use Plans, necessitating further analysis during scheduled Land-Use Plan revision or amendment processes.

6.1 Local Working Group process related milestones

Category/Task	Responsible Party	Target Deadline
Identify funding needs and funding sources to implement the State Conservation Plan and LWG plans, including support for LWG facilitators.	SAC, cooperating agencies	December 31, 2006, incorporate new facilitators as soon as possible after funding is secured
Existing LWGs with draft plans (Shoshone Basin, Jarbidge), should complete and finalize their plans.	LWGs and facilitators	December 31, 2006
Existing LWGs that currently do not have draft plans (Challis, West Central) should complete and finalize their plans.	LWGs and facilitators	December 31, 2007
Initiate formal LWGs in the South, East and West Magic Valley, Big Desert, East Idaho Uplands and Mountain Home SGPAs. Opportunities may exist for combining some SGPAs into a single LWG, as determined locally.	IDFG Regions	December 31, 2006
LWGs provide annual report to SAC.	LWG facilitators or designated lead	Start December 31, 2006, annually thereafter

6.2 Conservation measure related milestones

Following are specific conservation measure related milestones identified in this Plan. At present this state Plan does not identify specific milestones for a number of the statewide threats including: infrastructure, livestock impacts, human disturbance, West Nile Virus, prescribed fire, seeded perennial grassland, climate change, conifer encroachment, isolated populations, predation, urban/exurban development, sagebrush control, insecticides, agricultural expansion, Mines, landfills, and gravel pits, and falconry.

6.2.1 Wildfire

Category/Task	Responsible Party	Target Deadline
Ensure the BLM/FS Fire Management Plans, Fire Management Unit Databases and related tools are updated annually, based on the most recent Sage-Grouse Habitat Planning Map.	BLM, FS	Annual, before the ensuing fire season
Require the washing of the undercarriage of fire vehicles and equipment prior to deployment and prior to demobilization from fires, to reduce spread of seeds of invasive species. This item will require additional analysis at the agency level.	BLM, FS	Initiate during 2007 fire season or before.
Require the use of knowledgeable resource advisors for fires within or threatening sage-grouse habitats. This item will require additional analysis at the agency level.	BLM, FS	Initiate during 2007 fire season or before.
Initiate the incorporation of overview training in sage-grouse habitat and related conservation issues, and suppression priorities during annual agency (including RFDs) firefighter training throughout southern Idaho (including Salmon/Challis). This item will require additional analysis at the agency level.	BLM, FS	Initiate during 2007 fire season training, annually thereafter.
Via instruction memorandum or other appropriate process, clarify the use of burn-out tactics in sage-grouse habitat. This item will require additional analysis at the agency level.	BLM, FS	Provide direction prior to the 2007 fire season or before.
Identify access roads where the installation of additional fire danger signs may be warranted. Install new signs as needed.	BLM, FS in cooperation with LWGs	Ongoing, but desirable to establish new signs in priority areas during the 2006 fire season, if warranted.

6.2.2 Annual grasslands

Category/Task	Responsible Party	Target Deadline
Require the washing of the undercarriage of fire vehicles and equipment prior to deployment and prior to demobilization from fires, to reduce spread of seeds of invasive species. This item will require additional analysis at the agency level.	BLM, FS	Initiate during 2007 fire season or before.
Explore means to require casual users of public/IDL lands to utilize certified weed-free forage. This item will require additional analysis at the agency level.	BLM, IDL	October 1, 2006

6.2.3 Sport hunting

Category/Task	Responsible Party	Target Deadline
Analyze existing wing data to determine the differences in sex and age of the harvest during opening weekend, compared to later in the season, and summarize other long-term trends.	IDFG	December 31, 2006
Identify sage-grouse populations where overharvest is a risk because of isolated or fragmented habitat or small numbers of birds. Develop appropriate 2006 hunting season recommendations to reduce risk.	IDFG	December 31, 2006

6.3 Monitoring related milestones

6.3.1 Population Monitoring

Category/Task	Responsible Party	Target Deadline
Identify lek monitoring goals (and primary and secondary lek routes) for SGPAs.	IDFG Regions	December 31, 2006
Explore the potential for initiating the “Adopt a Lek” program for Idaho, to increase monitoring of leks.	IDFG	December 31, 2006
Agency partners, volunteers submit completed lek monitoring forms to the appropriate IDFG Wildlife Manager or data steward for inclusion into the	BLM, FS, volunteers conducting lek surveys	No later than June 1 annually

Category/Task	Responsible Party	Target Deadline
statewide lek database.		

6.3.2 Habitat Monitoring

Category/Task	Responsible Party	Target Deadline
Establish SAC Technical Assistance Team (TAT), to aid in habitat, population, and data management/analysis tasks.	IDFG HQ, SAC	August 31, 2006
SAC TAT and IDFG coordinate with agency contacts and LWGs during the fall/early winter each year to acquire spatial and related data needed for the annual update of the Sage-grouse Habitat Planning Map.	SAC TAT, IDFG	Acquire data from agency field-level offices and other partners by February 1 annually
Complete annual update of the Sage-grouse Habitat Planning Map including acreage summary (of key perennial grasslands, annual grasslands, conifer encroachment, by SGPA). Post on the FGDC Geospatial One Stop Clearinghouse node (Univ. Idaho), Sagemap, and DOI Geography Network.	IDFG HQ GIS	By March 1, annually
Review adequacy of the 2005 USGS Shrubmap to use as a tool to refine or replace the Sage-grouse Habitat Planning Map.	SAC TAT	December 31, 2007
Acquire updated infrastructure spatial data (e.g., new major paved roads, major power lines, communication towers, wind energy towers and related, oil/gas pipelines, geothermal sites etc.). Ensure updated infrastructure GIS product is made available to cooperators via web sites noted above.	SAC TAT, IDFG-HQ GIS	As needed
Delineate all known sage-grouse breeding and winter habitat at 1:100,000 (or 1:24,000 if possible), using best available information.	IDFG Regions in cooperation with land management agency biologists and LWGs	December 31, 2007
Evaluate the feasibility and appropriateness of establishing long-term habitat monitoring plots in specific areas such as: areas of priority to LWGs; habitats associated with priority lek routes; priority SGPAs; unique areas of local or regional importance.	IDFG research biologists, in cooperation with LWGs and SAC TAT	December 31, 2006

Category/Task	Responsible Party	Target Deadline
Establish a standardized template for LWG annual reports.	SAC TAT	October 31, 2006
Establish a database or spreadsheet for summarizing and reporting habitat accomplishments and related information from LWG annual reports and other agency/private projects.	SAC TAT	December 31, 2006